

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 0021 with the following:

[0021] The beamformer 14 is operable to scan along a two-dimensional plane over a first lateral range in transmit, receive or both. For example, the beamformer 14 is operable to perform a sector scan by transmission and reception along a plurality of scan lines extending over ~~[[an]]~~ about a 90 degree angle. Lesser or greater angle extents may be used for a sector or Vector® image. The scan lines extend by about 45 degrees from normal along the azimuth dimension. As an alternative to varying angular ranges, the two-dimensional plane may be scanned over a lateral range defined by the azimuth extent of the transducer array for linear imaging. The beamformer 14 is also operable to scan a three-dimensional volume over another lateral range, such as steering in two dimensions or steering in one dimension with movement of the transducer 12. The lateral range of the three-dimensional volume is less than the lateral range of the two-dimensional plane along at least one dimension, such as within the two-dimensional plane. For sector or vector scans, the three-dimensional volume is associated with a lesser scan angle than the two-dimensional plane. For linear imaging, the lateral extent of the three-dimensional volume is less than ~~[[of]]~~ for the two-dimensional plane, such as using scan lines that extend from only a portion of the azimuth length of the transducer array. The lateral extent of the scan is defined by the scan geometry, such as the placement of scan lines through focusing profiles, apodization profiles and aperture selection.

Please replace paragraph 0033 with the following:

[0033] In an optional act, the lateral range of the three-dimensional scan 38, the two-dimensional scan 36 or both is set as a function of user input. For example, the user selects the size, angle, lateral range and/or the depth of the three-dimensional scan 38 by selecting a region of interest, selecting a numerical value or altering a graphic representation. Further user positioning may be provided, such as allowing the user to position the three-dimensional scan 38 relative to the two-dimensional scan 36. For example, Figure 3b shows the three-dimensional scan 38 positioned differently relative to the two-dimensional scan 36 than

shown in Figure 3a. Alternatively, the system automatically positions the three-dimensional scan 38 at a set position or a position that adapts as a function of received data. The lateral extent and the depth may also be automatically determined or preset.